

Please rewrite Claims 1 and 5-12 as follows:

1. (Amended twice) An image display apparatus comprising:
a screen capable of displaying an image area and a blank area;
an A/D converter to convert an input analog image signal into digital image data;
a black level setting mechanism to set a first black level of the digital image data by adjusting a lower-limit reference voltage of the A/D converter;
a blank data generator to generate blank data to form the blank area around the image display area, a second black level of the blank area being independent of the first black level of the digital image area;
an image data combiner to combine the blank data and the digital image data; and
an output of the image data combiner being displayed on said screen.

5. (Amended twice) A method of displaying an image comprising:
adjusting a first black level of digital image data such that the first black level of the digital image data is different from a second black level of blank data; and
displaying the digital image data in an image display area and the blank data in a blank area of a display screen.

6. (Amended twice) The method of displaying an image according to claim 5, further comprising:
converting an input analog image signal into the digital image data;
adjusting a lower-limit reference voltage of the digital image data to thereby adjust the first black level of the digital image data;
generating the blank data for display in the blank area around the image display area in which the second black level of the blank data is independent of the first black level of the digital image data;
combining the blank data and the digital image data; and

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displaying the combination of the blank data and the digital image data on the screen.

7. (Amended) The method of displaying an image according to claim 6, the adjusting the first black level comprising adjusting a variable resistor.

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8. (Amended) The method of displaying an image according to claim 6, the adjusting the first black level comprising detecting an illuminance around a video camera that outputs the analog image signal.

9. (Amended) The method of displaying an image according to claim 8, further comprising outputting a lower-limit reference voltage corresponding to the detected illuminance.

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10. (Amended twice) A method of displaying an image comprising:
converting an input analog image signal into digital image data;
adjusting a lower-limit reference voltage of the digital image data to thereby set a first black level of the digital image data;
generating blank data for display in a blank area around an image display area in which a second black level of the blank data is independent of the first black level of the image display data;
combining the blank data and the digital image data; and
displaying the combination of the blank data and the digital image data on a screen.

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11. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, the setting of the first black level comprising adjusting a variable resistor.